For our group project we got assigned to conduct an interview at La Cabana about waste management. I managed to schedule an interview with Frank Sabajo, who is in charge of Waste Management there. Here below are the answers to the questions I asked him during the interview:

1. What are your personal and professional impressions about waste management in Aruba?

🡪 Mr. Sabajo’s *personal impression* of waste management in Aruba is that we are far from being a green and eco-friendly island that we aspire to be. He says that there is still a lot to be done about how to properly manage waste here in Aruba. One of the first things we need to have available is the proper infrastructure to separate and recycle the waste.

🡪 Mr. Sabajo’s *professional impression* of waste management in Aruba is that we are still very far from where we need to be. There needs to be more incentives from the private sector to reduce waste. The old government took public funds to start a recycling project at the dump but when the new government came in they stopped the project. The politicians here are too worried about “who did what”, instead they should just work together to come up with more ideas for how we can make Aruba greener and then implement that idea.

1. What is your desired future for waste management in Aruba?

🡪 Mr. Sabajo’s desired future for waste management in Aruba is that we need infrastructure available here on the island to properly separate and process the waste, and the facilities to export them to countries that can put them to good use. In other words, Mr. Sabajo hopes to no longer see a mountain of waste on the island, because it’s bad for the environment, it’s bad for the population and, it’s bad when it comes to tourism. Mr. Sabajo hopes to see a more green and eco-friendly Aruba, one that is more aware of the environment and one that takes care of it.

1. What are obstacles seen in getting to this desired future scenario?

🡪 One of the biggest obstacles that Mr. Sabajo sees is that, it has to come from the government. It will be an investment, a financial issue. But waste is money, so if the government can find a way to come up with good incentives to attract potential investors, it will be a step in the right direction. People do not want to invest in something and ten years later see no results at all. Another one is that there needs to be more awareness on the island. Organize some events, make ads and hold presentations at school to better inform the public.

1. Will there be a market for improved waste management in Aruba? (who would pay for better waste management in Aruba? (e.g. recycling))

🡪 Mr. Sabajo believes that there *will be* a market for improved waste management in Aruba. He says a lot of companies and hotels are taking the steps towards being more green and eco-friendly. They are trying to use less waste and become more sustainable. A lot of hotels would pay for better waste management in Aruba according to Mr. Sabajo. One of the first steps towards being more green and eco-friendly was banning the use of plastic bags. It’s more than just recycling. We need to convert to more sustainable energy and we need better/improved waste management.